

Appl. # 10/651,059
Amdt. dated June 27 2005
Reply to Office action of April 26, 2005

Response to Prior Arts Comparison:

Re: Claim 1.

Curan teaches a flexible body which does **not** circumferentially surround the tooth.

Re: Claims 1-3: Curan teaches a flat flexible body which in fact possess a series of holes intended for **grasping or retaining** and ultimately for separation. The holes are not intended for nor are they to be used for resin extrusion. Furthermore, the holes are strategically located as to purposely not coincide with the inter-proximal area of the pre-prepped area of the tooth to be filled. The separating notch is not associated within an extrusion hole or aperture or a contiguous structure.

Re: Claim 10: Curan teaches a band which requires retaining and separating instrumentation peculiar to its own design, and is not compatible with a standard Tofflemire retainer.

Re: Claims 4, 6: Curan does not teach a boomerang-shaped body with a contiguous sighting appendage intimate to an extrusion aperture.

Re: Claim 8: Curan does not teach a notched extrusion aperture which is essential for band separation.

Re: Claim 9: The art of record fails to disclose a matrix band which possesses an aperture for the exclusive purpose of allowing a restorative material to intentionally pass through it during the restorative phase of repairing a decayed tooth. Furthermore, the art of record fails to teach a matrix band whose separation upon completion of the restoration is exclusively dependent upon notches incorporated within the periphery of the extrusion aperture.

Lazarus (US 3921299) teaches tear-resistant notches column 4 lines 15-18 (Still another object of this improved invention is to provide a pair of cooperating tear resistant notches in the matrix blank for holding and positioning the lock loop on the matrix.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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